Patient Travel Grant Program
Surgery

The Meso Foundation's **Patient Travel Grant Program** provides travel grants to a patient and one caregiver traveling for an initial consultation, surgery or clinical trial treatments. This information sheet provides criteria only for those traveling for **surgery**.

Eligible Travel

- Travel for a patient and one caregiver for a major surgical procedure with treatment intent, such as pleurectomy/decortication or CRS/HIPEC.
- Exploratory or diagnostic procedures are not eligible.
- The surgical center must generally be located at least 50 miles one way from the patient's primary residence, or the patient must require an overnight stay because of the distance traveled, the timing of the procedure, or a documented requirement to remain near the treatment center before or after surgery.
- Travel must be medically appropriate or necessary to access a qualified surgical program.

Financial Eligibility

To assist the greatest number of patients, the following financial eligibility guidelines have been established for the Surgical Travel Grant:

- Applicants with annual gross household income at or below 300% of the current Federal Poverty Guidelines are eligible.
- Applicants with household income above 300% and up to 500% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines may be considered when eligible travel and lodging expenses would create significant financial hardship.
- Applicants with household income above 500% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines may be considered only in limited circumstances, based on unusual financial need, available funding, and Foundation approval.
- Applicants must provide documentation of current household income. If the most recent federal tax return does not accurately reflect current income, more recent documentation may be submitted along with a brief explanation of the change in financial circumstances.
- Meeting the financial eligibility guidelines does not guarantee an award. Grants are subject to available funding and established reimbursement limits.

Program Guidelines

- Eligible expenses related to the surgery may be reimbursed up to a maximum of $6,000.
- The application and all required documentation must be submitted through the online application system.

- All expenses and supporting documentation must be submitted within 30 days of the patient's discharge. Expenses submitted after this deadline will not be reimbursed.
- A medical authorization form signed by the mesothelioma surgeon must be included.
- Grant funds will be issued through the Foundation's online payment processor, Bill.com, and must be paid to the patient unless otherwise approved.

Eligible Expenses

- Lodging, including a hotel, motel, or Airbnb
- Transportation, including airfare, bus, train, public transit, taxi, or rideshare expenses
- Tolls
- Gas expenses; mileage is not reimbursable
- Parking

Non-eligible Expenses

- Food or beverages
- Travel insurance
- First-class tickets or travel upgrades
- Entertainment expenses
- Personal purchases, including clothing, toiletries, or valet services
- International travel

Pre-Approval is required. Call (703) 879-3819 or email info@curemeso.org to speak with our Director of Patient Services, Julie White RN BSN OCN, to determine eligibility.

For more information about all the foundation does, visit https://www.curemeso.org or scan the QR code for more details.